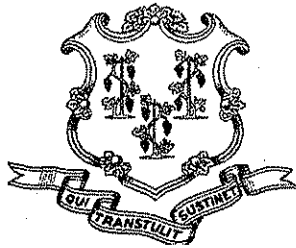


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State of Connecticut  
SENATE

DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

*Chair*

Commerce Committee

*Member*

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Legislative Management Committee

Transportation Committee

March 1, 2010

Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06108

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for providing me time to testify before this important committee. Here are some cogent reasons I support Senate Bill 248, *An Act Concerning Adverse Events at Hospitals and Outpatient Surgical Facilities*:

- The Institute of Medicine reports 100,000 preventable deaths in US hospitals. This equals twenty preventable deaths per hospital. Of these deaths:
  - 7,000 from medication errors
  - 100,000 from hospital acquired infections – some of these are not preventable
- The health care consumer needs concrete and specific information about hospitals. By publishing, hospital specific information of reported adverse events, the consumer can know if there is a pattern of wrong site surgery, medication error or an outsized infection rate.
- Auditing of the hospitals gives incentives for everyone to report accurately.
- The reporting also gives a heads up to Boards of Directors who generally have not thought of quality and patient safety to be as critical to the running of hospitals as financial statements.
- Reliably delivering the basics of care – which our adverse event reports cover, improves outcomes and saves money. Oftentimes, a high-value care system embraces the appropriate use of scientific guidelines, standard practice, teamwork, checklists and accountability and transparency.

*Senate Bill 248 is an important first step*